

Inspection date	2 March 2015
Previous inspection date	12 May 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The childminder is proactive in working with children's parents, and any other early years practitioners involved with their care. This provides her with a comprehensive knowledge of each child, which she uses exceptionally well to provide excellent learning opportunities. As a result, children embed the skills and knowledge they need for their eventual move on to pre-school or school.
- The childminder is meticulous when undertaking assessments of children's learning. Each child's progress is monitored closely and, where necessary, timely interventions are made to minimise or close any gaps in their development.
- The childminder pays extremely good attention to her ongoing professional development. As a result, the quality of her teaching is consistently very good and clearly supports each child to make excellent progress towards the early learning goals.
- The childminder uses very successful strategies to engage all parents in their child's learning, both in her setting and at home. By working together, parents and the childminder provide positive role models for their children, raising their confidence. As a result, children's emotional well-being is nurtured extremely well, supporting their self-assurance for the future.
- The childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of her responsibility to meet the safeguarding, welfare, learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. At the heart of her practice, attention to safeguarding children remains her highest priority.
- The childminder enables children to explore foods from around the world. She provides information for parents relating to food allergens, and ideas for nutritional meals. By working closely together, children's health is promoted very well.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- enrich the very good teaching and cultural learning opportunities for children to explore expressive arts more deeply, for example, by introducing them to creative adults within the local environment, such as artists, dancers, story-tellers and musicians.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed general play and lunch time routines in the childminder's home.
- The inspector talked with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability checks for all members of the household, and a range of other documentation. First-aid and safeguarding training certificates were viewed.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder in relation to observations of the children's play, learning and progress.
- The inspector reviewed the provider's written self-evaluation record.

Inspector

Lynn Clements

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

The childminder is extremely motivated to support young children's learning to a very high standard. Time is taken to carefully plan exciting opportunities which build exceptionally well on their existing interests, skills and abilities. This focus clearly promotes success and enjoyment for the children in what they set out to do. For example, children use their imagination and knowledge of real experiences to heighten their play, as they become shop-keepers and chefs. The provision of multiple role play areas encourages them to use their ideas and language to the optimum. They expand their intellectual abilities, taking part in excellent hands on learning opportunities, such as exploring the simpler concepts of floating and sinking. This activity helps children to build on the more intricate areas of their physical development, including their hand-eye coordination. Together with the childminder, they make paper boats and then carefully balance items on them. The childminder provides continuous verbal guidance, encouraging them to think things out for themselves and undertake tasks independently. She makes close observations of each child and plans according to their individual learning styles. As a result, children make excellent progress across the prime and specific areas of learning.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

The children enjoy moving freely around the childminder's exceptionally well-equipped setting. The provision of very high quality props, such as shop fronts, along with all the resources relevant to a shop or restaurant, promote exciting, independent learning opportunities. Children have tremendous fun accessing a very wide range of learning materials, both natural and man-made. The childminder expertly extends their understanding about developing positive healthy lifestyles and keeping themselves safe. For example, children enjoy running and learning to climb safely within local soft play centres and parks, where they develop their muscles and coordination. Behaviour is very good and children's mindfulness of others and their environment enables them to develop excellent spatial awareness. The childminder is conscious about enriching opportunities for children to meet and learn from other creative adults within the local community.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The childminder's setting runs smoothly and successfully. This is because she consistently implements very clear and pertinent policies and procedures and shares these with parents. In addition, her well-established attention to professional development and accurate self-evaluation makes sure that her knowledge and understanding continually progress to support future practice. Partnerships with parents, external agencies and other providers are well established and make a strong contribution to meeting children's needs. Parents speak highly of the childminder and the marvellous opportunities she provides for their children. Parents are fully involved in their child's education and encouraged to share their ideas for improvements to enhance the service they receive.

Setting details

Unique reference number	222578
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	866042
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	12 May 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1996 and lives in Cambridge. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.45pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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